of the Targetted Public Distribution System and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. As and when specific information is received in respect of starvation deaths or major deficiencies in the functioning of the Public Distribution System, a Team of Officers is deputed to visit the areas concerned. So far such teams have been sent to Orissa and Rajasthan, amongst other States.

Rejection by Pakistan to use land route for Indo-Afghan trade

256. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has rejected Afghanistan's request to use country's land route for continuing its trade ties with India;

(b) if so, whether Indo-Afghanistan trade would continue through alternative route avoiding Pakistan territory; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Pakistan has not allowed trade-related and some other Indian products destined for Afghanistan to enter through the India-Pakistan border.

India-Afghanistan trade and economic relations continue to strengthen and expand through commercially available channels and routes to Afghanistan.

Visit by foreign dignitaries

257. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since August, 2002 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is given as under:

Sl. No.	Foreign Dignitaries who visited India since August, 2002 till date	The issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries	Whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them	Details of the bilateral agreements signed
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	U.S.A.			
1.	Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage (August 23-24)	Bilateral relations, continuing cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, Afganistan and regional and international developments, including Iraq.	No	Not applicable
2.	Director for Policy Planning in the State Department Dr. Richard Haas (October 28-29)	Long-term India-U.S. relations and exchange, continuing cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, developments in Pakistan and other international issues of mutual interest.	No	Not applicable
3.	Presidential Envoy for Afganistan, Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad (October 30)	India-U.S. cooperation on Afghanistan.	No	Not applicable
4.	Under Secretary for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky (October 30-31)	First meeting of the India-U.S. Global Issues Forum, which focuses on India-U.S.bilateral and multilateral cooperation on issues such as democracy, sustainable development, health, environment, science and technology, etc.	No	Not applicable
5.	Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Alan Larson (November 7)	Bilateral economic relations and the related Economic Dialogue Architecture.	No	Not applicable
6.	Under Secretary of Commerce Kenneth I. Juster (Nov. 12-13)	To discuss ways to stimulate high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies, between India and the United States.	No	Not applicable

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
7. **U.K.** Mr. Mike O'Brien, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (16-18 October)	He called on EAM and NSA and Principal Secretary to PM and met MoS for Home Affairs and Foreign Secretary. The discussions focussed on bilateral issues of mutual concern.	No	Not applicable
8. **France** Foreign Minister Mr. Dominique Villepin (2-3 August)	During his visit, he met Deputy Prime Minister and EAM. Discussions covered a wide range of issues including an in-depth review of our bilateral political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. Regional matters and international issues of mutual concern were also discussed. There was a convergence of views on cross-border terrorism. During his press conference, he reiterated the strong French support for the legitimate expectations of India to be a permanent Member of the UN Security Council in its own right.	No	Not applicable
9. **Japan** Mr. Yoshiro Mori, former Prime Minister as Special Envoys of Prime Minister Koizumi (20-22 October)	The visit was to inagurate the Japan Week' organized by the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi as part of the 50th anniversary clelebrations of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. He called on the Deputy Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. The issues discussed included India- Japan Global Partnership for the 21st Century, Improvement of bilateral relations, 50th anniversary celebrations and fight against international terrorism.	No	Not applicable
10. **Canada** Mr. Herb Dhaliwal, Minister for National Resources (November 10-19)	'Business development' deliberations with the Indian side took place.	No	Not applicable

(a)	(b)	(c)	(D)
11. **Norway** Foreign Minister Mr. Jan Petersen (8-10 November)	He had meetings with Deputy Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor (NSA) and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister. The main focus of discussion was in-depth review of bilateral relations the Peace Process in Sri Lanka, regional and international issues of mutual concern.	No	Not applicable
12. **Republic of Korea** Dr. Lee Ki-ho, Special Adviser for Economy, Labour & Welfare to President Kim Dae-jung as his Special envoy (26-30 August)	He called on Ministers of Commerce & Industry and Petroleum & Natural Gas, Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and Secretary in the Department of Information Technology. The issues discussed included India-RK bilateral trade and investment relations and promotion of cooperation in the field of Information Technology.	No	Not applicable
13. **Belarus** Foreign Minister Mr. Mikhail Khvostov (1-2 August)	Issues of interest in bilateral, regional and multilateral sphere were discussed. A Joint Statement was issued at the end of the visit in which Belarus reiterated support for India's candidature for Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council.	No	Not applicable
14. **Czech Republic** Three member Czech delegation led by Minister of Industry and Trade Jiri Rusnok (27-31 August)	Issues of bilateral interest, including defence cooperation	No	Not applicable
15. **Armenia** Minister of Education & Science (29 September—4 October)	Bilateral cooperation in the field of Education and Science.	Yes	EEP(Educational Exchange Programme) an umbrella

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
			agreement. It covers areas such an exchange of research materials, publications, organization of conferences, exhibitions, joint research programmes, training programmes, exchange of academic and other administrative staff, scholars, twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning, setting up of chairs on contemporary studies etc.
16. **Ukraine** President Mr. Leonid Kuchma (2-5 October)	Issues discussed included cooperation in the bilateral, regional and multilateral fields. Specific areas of bilateral cooperation covered, *inter-alia*,	Yes.	(i) Extradition Treaty to made more effective

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	political, trade, economic, defence, space, scientific, cultural, technological and humanitarian spheres; participation of Ukrainian manufacturers in power sector of India, erection of power transmission lines, coke and metallurgical sectors, pipeline modernization, building roads and road infrastructure etc. Also discussed were bilateral cooperation in multilateral fora including in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, illicit arms trade, illegal migration and other forms of international criminal activities; Ukraine's accession to WTO; etc.		the cooperation of the two Countries in the suppression of crime in general and organised crime in particular by making provision for the reciprocal extradition of offenders. (ii) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to improve the effectiveness of measures of both countries in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime, including crime related to terrorism. (iii) Agreement on Merchant Shipping to support and develop effective working

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
			relationship between the two countries in the maritime affairs.
17. **Romania** Minister of Communication and Information Technology Mr. Dan Nica (16-17 October)	Cooperation in the field of Information Technology.	No	Not applicable
18. **Slovak Republic** Minister of Environment Mr. (Laszlo Miklos (29 October)	The Minister participated in the 8th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.	No	Not applicable
19. **Croatia** State Visit by the President Mr. Stijepan Mesic, (12-16 November)	Bilateral cooperation in such fields as trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, culture, education and training. Cooperation in multilateral issues including in respect of restructuring of the United Nations Security Council; and, fight against international and cross-border terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and in resolving other pressing problems of the modern world.	Yes	Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of agricultural research & technology, agricultural production and food processing through joint projects, seminars and exchange of experts. Some of the focus areas identified in the

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
			agreement are: agricultural machinery consultancy services; vegetables and fruit production, horticulture; frozen semen technology; germplasm of crops fisheries; animal public health; meat and poultry processing, dairy production, viticulture, beer manufacturing; etc.
20. **Yemen**			
Mr. Abdulrahaman Mohammed Tarmoum, Vice-Minister of Planning & Development, (Oct. 30-31)	To attend 4th session of Indo-Yemen Joint Committee Meeting. Means to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, petroleum and natural gas, health, education, culture, information and broadcasting and tourism were discussed.	Yes	(i) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine (ii) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA)

21. **Ghana**				
	Mr. John Agyekum Kufuour, President (4-8 August)	Issues of mutual concern.	Yes	1. Cultural and Scientific Exchange Programme 2. Protocol for Consultation between Ghana and MEA 3. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) 4. Cooperation in Information Technology and Services.
22. **Senegal**				
	Mr. Youssouf Sakho Minister of Transport & Equipment (14 August)	Issues of mutual concern	No	Not applicable
23.	Mr. Moddou Fada Dagne Minister of Youth, Environment & Public Hygiene (23 Oct. to 1st November)	To attend Conference of Parties (COP-8) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change	No	Not applicable

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
24. **Nigeria** Prof. Jerry Gana Minister of Information and National Orientation, (1-10 October)	To paticipate in the 33rd International Film Festival of India	No	Not applicable
25. Prof. Turner T. Isoun Minister of Science & Technology (18-23 October)	To attend 8th General Conference of Third World Academy of Science	No	Not applicable
26. Mr. Alhaji M.K. South Africa' ID, Minister of Environment (29th Oct. to 2nd November)	To attend the 8th Conference of Parties (COP-8).	No	Not applicable
27. **Tanzania** Mr.Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, Cheif Minister of Zanzibar (6-13 November)	Issues of mutual concern	No	Not applicable
28. **Paraguay** Mr. Jose Antonio Moreno Rufinelli,Minister of External Relations (26-27 Aug.)	Issues of mutual concern including promotion of business and institutional linkages between India and MERCOSUR.	No	Not applicable
29. **Sri Lanka** Mr. Milinda Moragoda, Minister of Economic Reforms and Science & Technology (26-28 Aug.)	Peace process in Sri Lanka and measures to increase bilateral economic cooperation	No	Not applicable
30. **Syria** Dr. Farouk al-Shara', Dy PM and Foreign Minister (12-14 Aug.)	Bilateral relations,situation in the Middle East, the US threats against Iraq etc.	No	Not applicable

31.	**Libya** Mr. Sa'ad Mustafa Mujber, MOS for International Cooperation (9-11 Oct.)	He led the Eight Session of Indo-Libyan Joint Commission. The two sides made a comprehensive review of bilateral relations with major focus on the exploitation of commercial and economic complementarities. Both the countries agreed to enhance bilateral trade in the sectors of hydrocarbons, petrochemicals, power sector, heavy industry sector and Railways.	Yes	Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
32.	**Kyrgyzstan** Mr. Askar Akaev, President (7 August)	Brief working visit. Discussed bilateral relations, including economic and industrial cooperation, terrorism, political issues and India's bilateral assistance programme. An in-depth exchange of views on emerging international and regional security environment also took place.	No	Not aplicable
33.	**Afghanistan** Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister (31 oct. to 3 Nov.)	Official bilateral visit. Issues of bilateral cooperation, situation in the region and security situation in Afghanistan were discussed.	No	Not applicable
34.	**Malaysia** Tan Seri Musa Mohammad, Minister of Education (July 28-4 August)	Discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of education.	No.	Not applicable
35.	Dato Serio Diraja Mohamad Tajor Rosli b. Ghazali Chief Minister of Perak State (27 Sept. to 4 Oct.)	Bilateral promotion of Tourism and Investment	No	Not aplicable
36.	Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad accompanied by Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar and Works Minister Samy Vellu (October 16-18).	Bilateral cooperation in various fields such as trade and investment, infrastructure projects, Defence, Information Technology, Petrochemicals etc. Also views were exchanged on regional and international issues.	No	Not applicable

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
37. Dato Wira Ali Rastam, Chief Minister of the State of Malacca (20-27 October)	To visit Information Technology companies and educational institutions in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.	No	Not applicable
38. Dato Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Deputy Minister of Works (10-12 Nov.)	To attend the Maharashtra Infrastructure Summit 2002	No	Not applicable
39. **Cambodia** Mr. Veng Sereyvuth Tourism Minister (27-28th September).	Discussions centred on increasing the tourism potential between the two countries.	No	Not applicable
40. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Commerce Minister (15-18 October)	To attend the India-ASEAN Business Summit held at New Delhi.	No	Not applicable
41. Mr. Im Chhun Lim, Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (currently on visit).	To attend the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC 21).	No	Not applicable
42. **Thailand** Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Proammin Lertsuridej (17th October).	To attend the India-ASEAN Business Summit held at New Delhi.He was the keynote speaker at the Summit.	No	Not applicable
43. **Lao PDR** Mr. Soulivong Dalavong, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts (16-18 October)	To attend the India-ASEAN Business Summit held at New Delhi.	No	Not applicable

44.	**Singapore** Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education (15-19 October)	To attend the India-ASEAN Business Summit held at New Delhi.	No	Not applicable
45.	**Tonga** HRH Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister to attend the 9th Session of the General Assembly of the Asia (21-26 October)	Discussions convered bilateral relations, Pacific Islands Forum, situation in the region, International terrorism and other issues of mutual concern. He attended the 9th Sesion of the General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity and the 26th Session of its Management Committee held in Delhi.	No	Not applicable